

THE DAGLIGHTALE

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All I Want For Christmas is... Consumerism?



Jessica and Tiffani know that The Game of Life is always a hit at Christmastime. PHOTO: Sarah Hall

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Deadline:
Monday, Jan 6

Tiffani Blatchford DAG WRITER

Since Christmas is right around the corner, it is time to start thinking of Christmas gifts, both to give and to ask for from others.

Christmas has shifted over the years from being family-focused to revolving around shopping and consumerism. Advertisements on television, radio, and in newspapers all pressure customers to buy as many expensive electronics as possible. Stores want to send the message that the pricier the gift is, the better it is.

Although the PS4 and Xbox One are obviously at the top of Christmas gift lists this year, as well as the iPhone 5s and an assortment of fancy tablets and laptops, with matching Beats headphones, their price range is more than a little unreasonable on a university student's budget (for those who do have the funds to buy a new gaming console, a more unique and equally cool idea would be to invest in a voice activated R2-D2 replica from Hammacher and Schlemmer, \$199.95).

Unfortunately for the majority of students, Christmas is the time of year when wallets start to grow thin, so it's nice to have gift options that are cost effective yet unique at the same time. Homemade gifts are a great option, but not everyone has the time or crafting

capabilities to make this a reality.

Never underestimate the effectiveness of a simple gift card. Gift cards are easy to slip into a Christmas card, so they can be mailed to people with ease. That way, the receiver of the gift can keep it in their wallet until something they really want appears. However, the problem with gift cards is that they can seem impersonal, especially in such a consumerist society. Yet there's no reason to have to shop at the dollar store for gifts. Here's a list of unique gift ideas that are relatively easy on the old pocketbook:

An acre of land on Mars. That's right, an acre of land on Mars. They are available for purchase at lunarl.com, starting at \$29.99 for a simple package that includes a map of Mars, showing the location of the purchased property by quadrant, lot number, latitude, and longitude. The package also includes a deed to the land and a list of Martian codes, outlining articles 1-8 of covenants and restrictions on the planet. The gift comes complete, wrapped in futuristic packaging. Extraterrestrial property is an interesting gift for space enthusiasts. A moon package is also available from the same website. A gift like this is fun, while ensuring that the receiver does not end up with a lot of

bulky items that they don't really need.

Ticket Stub Diary. A lot of people like to collect the ticket stubs from every event they've gone to, from plays, movies, museums, sporting events, and concerts. But where are they to store them? The Ticket Stub Diary is available at UncommonGoods.com for \$12. It has clear sleeves to display the tickets and space to write down memories in the margin. For students at Augustana, this gift would be perfect for making a Vikings themed diary to catalogue all the games, or a book to keep all of the ticket stubs from plays put on by the drama department.

Put a twist on the old "socks for Christmas" idea with Superman knee socks, for those with Calves of Steel. Blue socks with the Superman logo and little red capes attached to them [are] a fun gift for those who have everything. These are available at 80sTees.com for \$10.

For music lovers, which includes just about everyone, there are a series of hats and headbands with built in audio speakers. A gift like this would be perfect for surviving Canadian winters in style, making listening to music a lot easier, since it reduces the need to try to fit headphones in under a hat or earmuffs. Toques start at \$24.99, available in different

colours, and there are also sports headbands for the athletically inclined, starting at \$19.99. Check out tookshats.com for more information.

Switch out video games for board games this year. Board games are another excellent gift idea, available from most department stores and Amazon.ca. A board game can be given as a group present, and they offer a way to put family and friends back into the holiday spirit. After giving the gift, hours can be spent playing [the games], spending time together and having fun. They are also a nice way to bring back childhood memories.

Great, cheap gifts are available all over the place. Check thrift stores for unique items to give people. The recycling and reusing of items as new gifts helps the environment and also takes a chunk out of consumerism.

Gifts generally mean more to people if they are specially selected based on the recipients' likes and dislikes--cost should have nothing to do with the value of a gift. So this Christmas, try avoiding the long lines and money pits that major stores offer with their expensive, impersonal gifts, and opt for something a little more unique and cost effective. Friends and wallets alike will be thankful!

Alberta-BC Pipeline Agreement

Olen Hillaby DAG WRITER

At the beginning of November the Northern Gateway Pipelines project (NGP) [faced] a major hurdle. The pipelines are set to transport millions of barrels of heavy oil from northern Alberta, and will cross the province of British Columbia to shipping ports on the coast. The oil is intended to be sold in overseas markets.

Since the initial announcement of the project, there has been opposition from both British Columbian First Nations and environmental activists across Canada. British Columbia premier Christy Clark has set out very harsh guidelines regarding the construction of the pipelines and has made demands to share additional royalty revenue from the oil that would be shipped through the pipelines.

These demands did not sit very well with Alberta premier Alison Redford, who has been butting heads with Clark over the pipelines since the spring. Both premiers have been publicly unfriendly with each other over the course of this project; however, in a recent turn of events they appear to be getting along and have even made an agreement regarding future pipelines that would run through Alberta and BC.

The agreement does not specifically mention the NGP; instead it sets out an agreed framework for how pipeline projects will be negotiated in the future. Experts agree that this is only a political hurdle, as the project still has to receive approval from First Nations and meet the many environmental requirements.

Included in the new pipeline agreement are several compromises from both the Alberta and BC government. Most significantly, Alberta has agreed to accept BC's five pipeline conditions. [The conditions, found at gatewayfacts.ca, are as follows:]

1. Successful completion of the environmental review process. In the case of the NGP, that would mean a recommendation by the National Energy Board Joint Review Panel that the project can proceed.

2. World-leading marine oil spill response, prevention, and recovery systems for BC's coastline and the risks and costs of heavy-oil pipelines and shipments.

3. World-leading practices for land oil-spill prevention, response and recovery systems to manage and mitigate the risks and costs of heavy-oil pipelines.

4. Legal require-

ments regarding Aboriginal and Treaty Rights are addressed, and First Nations are provided with the opportunities, information and resources necessary to participate in and benefit from a heavy-oil project.

5. BC receives a fair share of the fiscal and economic benefits of a proposed heavy-oil project that reflects the level, degree and nature of the risk borne by the province, the environment and taxpayers.

The premiers have made these significant agreements as well as several others. Clark has agreed to sign Alberta's Energy Strategy; both parties also agreed that Alberta's energy royalties will not be on the table for future energy [discussions].

Both premiers agreed that BC's government will have the right to negotiate a tax or toll system with the oil companies that choose to send oil through future BC pipelines.

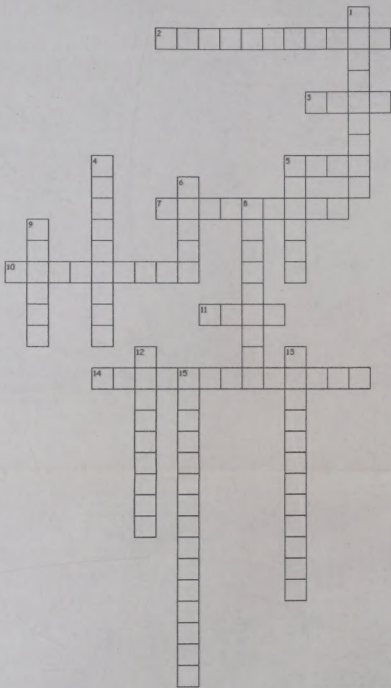
Enbridge, the owner of the NGP project, is only now beginning to enter negotiations with the BC government on how these new taxes or toll systems may function. Premier Clark has called these new taxes as part of her campaign promise for economic development for all of BC. It is yet to be seen how much Enbridge will be willing to pay for the rights to ship Alberta oil across BC.

Enbridge has independently agreed to incorporate many new safety features into its new pipeline proposals including the NGP project. These improvements include twenty percent thicker pipeline walls and x-ray testing of every weld on the pipeline to help reduce the chances of pipeline ruptures and potential spills.

Enbridge has also committed to a new monitoring standard including 24 hour manned monitoring of all pumping stations, as well as bi-weekly aerial inspections of the pipeline. Also to be included are over a hundred isolation valves to help reduce spillage in case of a pipeline breach.

The NGP project is an important part of Alberta's ability to sell bitumen to foreign markets around the world. However, even though pipeline projects, like the NGP project, have the potential to provide economic benefits for both Alberta and BC, these benefits come at a risk. The construction of the pipeline could have a large environmental impact on the forests of BC. There is potential risk of oil spills along the entire pipeline, as well as spillage at transfer stations in BC ports.

Crossword: Augustana Spaces Edition



Across

2. AKA, the Sunnyside Trailer Park (2 words)
3. "Bacon breakfast bun!"
5. The grand opening is scheduled for October 4, 2014
7. Formerly known as the "crack house", this building was demolished in 2011.
10. Flasks available here
11. Jeff keeps his drums here
14. A place where music students go to procrastinate (2 words)

Down

1. L1-002 (2 words)
4. Home of the Vikings
5. Free soup here every Tuesday
6. The only residence building with a bathtub
8. Why do those guys get nice couches?!
9. People dread passing through here on Preview Day
12. Endless chocolate milk!
13. Formerly housed offices, classrooms, dorms, and a kitchen (2 words)
15. You probably witnessed some forbidden acts here last Wednesday (2 words)

Christmas Activities at the Bailey Theatre Lee Metronec DAG WRITER

For those who are spending the Christmas break in Camrose, there is a plethora of fun events to attend. The Bailey Theatre will be providing all sorts of entertainment, from traditional Christmas shows to country music concerts.

Churchmice Players, an all-ages amateur theatre group from Camrose, is putting on a stage adaptation of the popular movie, *A Christmas Story*. This comedic play is a Christmas tradition for the Bailey Theatre. On December 6, 7, & 13 the dinner theatre will be held at 7:30, and tickets are \$48 dollars. The show will also run as a matinee on December 8 & 14 at 1:30, with tickets available at \$20, or \$60 for a family.

On December 11, 790 CFCW radio will be at the Bailey Theatre putting on Down Home Country Christmas. This event will feature the music of Canadian Country Music Association independent female vocalist Lisa Hewitt; Bev Munro, a member of the CCMA Hall of Fame; Camrose Camerata community choir; local artists Myra Marshall, and Tyler Vollrath, two time North American Fiddle Champion. Doors open at 6:00 pm and the show starts at 7:00pm. Tickets are available at the Bailey box office or online for \$30. A portion of the ticket sales will go to the Open Door, and to the Camrose Food Bank. In addition, there will be a bin on location

for food bank donations.

The Camrose Country Opry Association will be hosting a show on December 14 at the Bailey Theatre. Doors will be open at 6:00 pm, and the show begins at 7:00pm. The night will feature four different acts of local country music performers. Tickets can be bought in advance at Shoppers Drug Mart in Camrose for \$7. They can also be purchased at the door for \$8. Seasonal reserve seating costs \$9, and for this price concertgoers are able to reserve a certain seat for the entire year. Ticket proceeds for December will be donated to the Open Door.

The Afternoon Film Club, founded by Pat Mundel, shows a movie at the Bailey Theatre once a month. This December, in the spirit of Christmas, they have decided to show *White Christmas*. The movie will play on December 18, at 1:30 pm and tickets are \$5.

Put on in partnership with CFCW radio, the Bailey Buckaroos will be performing at the Bailey Theatre this December. The band consists of Dan Olofson (bass guitar), Stan Koestel (steel guitar), Jordan Leden (lead guitar), Norm Taylor (drums), and Rudy Famulak (fiddle). Both shows will also feature the talents of Ken Grambo, Myra Marshall, and Cory Vanderjagt.

The Buckaroos host a dinner performance on De-

cember 20 with doors opening at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:30pm, and show at 7:00pm. Tickets are available from the Bailey box office or online for \$39, and it is also possible to reserve a table by calling 672-5510. The Christmas Matinee performance is on the 22nd, with doors opening at 1:00 pm and the show starting at 2:00pm. Tickets are \$12, available also at the box office and online. The shows feature traditional country music and promise fun for the entire family. Bailey Buckaroos season tickets are also available at Duff Laytons and Martha's Music. Season passes can not be used to get into the Christmas Dinner, but can be used for the matinee performance.

Godfrey Blake, a local band popular in the late 60's and early 70's, will be performing at the Bailey Theatre on December 21. This classic rock show is sure to draw a large crowd. Tickets for the dinner at 8:00 pm are already sold out, but there are still tickets available for the dance, which begins at 9:00pm, and costs \$25. They can be purchased at the Bailey box office or online.

The Bailey Theatre is presenting *Burlesque-A-Billy New Years Eve Masquerade* Ball, featuring the talents of Punch Drunk Cabaret and River City Revue Burlesque. Tickets for the event are \$29, available from the Bailey box office or online. Doors will open at 8:00 pm on December



IMAGE: The Bailey Theatre

31, and the entertainment will begin at 9:00pm. Punch Drunk Cabaret is a steam-punk swing and outlaw country band, with its three members originating out of Camrose, Wetaskiwin, and Edmonton.

River City Revue Burlesque is an all female group based out of Edmonton. The combination of both these groups promises to bring an exciting touch to the New Years Eve celebration. In addition to the entertainment, there will be prizes for the

best costumes, a 50/50 draw, as well as door prizes.

The events taking place at the Bailey Theatre over the month of December vary greatly, so there is sure to be something for everyone. Check out any of these events for a fun time. More information can be found out about any of these events by visiting the Bailey Theatre website: www.baileytheatre.com.

Relief Efforts: A Look At The Philippines Kate Anderson DAG WRITER

[The Haiyan Typhoon hit the Philippines in November, causing a wave of destruction, as well as media reactions].

Up to 13 million people have been affected or displaced, and relief efforts have been massive. Augustana has been involved in raising funds, from an open mic fundraiser to donating coins during Wellness Week. However, it is easy to be unaware of what the full response of relief aid has been, and what Canada's role has often been in relief efforts. While Canada has been a strong presence for relief efforts, few people really stay tuned with what the nation does when disaster relief is needed.

An interesting feature of Canada's relief work is DART, or the Disaster Assistance Response Team. Canada's National Defense and Canadian Armed Forces website describes DART as "a multidisciplinary military organization designed to deploy on short notice anywhere in the world in response to situations ranging from natural disasters to complex humanitarian emer-

gencies," essentially stabilizing disaster situations. The team is equipped to provide medical care, engineering help, and safe drinking water until organizations, both national and international, can implement long term recovery programs.

Stephen Harper mobilized DART on November 11 to go to the Philippines in order to assess the assistance [that needed to be] provided, primarily focusing on clean drinking water. DART is one of Canada's consistent disaster relief efforts, and since 1998, DART has been deployed to Honduras after Hurricane Mitch (1998), Turkey after an earthquake that hit 7.4 on the Richter Scale (1999), Sri Lanka after the Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004-2005), Pakistan after a massive earthquake (2005), Haiti after the earthquake (2010), and now the Philippines.

The Canadian Government has also consistently helped financially when disaster relief is needed. For the Haiyan Typhoon, the federal government originally stated that they would give \$5 million to relief efforts, and has

since added \$15 million to that, matching Canadian citizens' donations, which they have said they will continue to do until December 23rd - the International Development Minister Christian Paradis is urging Canadians to continue donating, as they will be matched dollar-for-dollar.

It is important to know that exactly is happening with the large amounts of money that Canadian citizens and government have been contributing. Paradis says that the money will go towards the humanitarian relief efforts of international organizations and other national organizations as listed below.

Currently, \$8 million has been allocated for Canadian organizations such as CARE Canada, focusing on shelter, Plan Canada, providing emergency shelter, drinking water, education and child protection services, and CTV News lists Médecins Sans Frontières Canada, Oxfam Canada, Save the Children Canada, and World Vision Canada as receiving some of the donated money as well.

\$12 million has been set aside for international relief aid organizations such as the United Nations World Food Program, Children's Fund, Red Cross, the International Organization for Migration, the World Health Organization, and the UN office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

It is encouraging to see the giving nature of Canadian citizens [and government]. While giving money may not seem as satisfying as giving other resources, the Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development Canada website highlights why this is the best course of action citizens can take during major disasters. This way, the relief [citizens] offer is "quick, efficient and adaptable". Disaster relief needs to happen quickly, and giving monetary support to organizations that specialize in quick mobilization makes the most sense.

That is not to say there isn't a time and place for volunteering in these areas, sending other supplies, and looking for new ways to offer assistance.

While money is the best option immediately after a disaster, long-term recovery programs may require different kinds of help. Haiti is perhaps the most tangible example of this. Disaster relief is crucial, but equally crucial is the long-term recovery after the area has been stabilized. As of 2013 in Haiti, 350,000 people are still living in tents, health has been a huge issue, and unemployment levels are still at around 70%.

Disaster relief is not over when there is emergency shelter and drinking water available. This is not to say that disaster relief is not worth it, but merely recognizing that this is only the beginning of the work that will have to be done in the Philippines.

Canadian donors have until December 23rd to be matched dollar-for-dollar on their monetary donations to relief efforts. The question remains for the rest of the plan - where does Canada's compassion end-after the cleanup is done, or after there are long-term plans in place for redevelopment to occur?

Construction Starting on Founders' Hall Renovations Cam Raynor DAG WRITER



The most up to date architectural rendering of completed Founders' Hall renovations. PHOTO: University of Alberta and Barr Ryder Architects & Interior Designers.

There has been a lot of activity and changes around Founders' Hall as work on the building's renovations has started to pick up. Crews are set to begin phase one of a renovation project that will restore the outside of the building, increase accessibility, modernize and reallocate the interior space, and attach a garden court to the basement. The goal is to maintain the original look and feel of the building while upgrading the facility for future use.

The project has been ongoing since the summer and site investigation and design are now complete. The next step is phase one of the renovation which will address the exterior of the structure and any additions to the building. Following phase one, phase two will address the interior of the building. The project will renew the historic Founders' Hall building. Founders' Hall was built in 1912, two years after the founding of Camrose Lutheran College (now known as Augustana). For years the Founders' Hall was the only building on campus containing the classrooms, offices, dorms, library and cafeteria. Unfortunately over the years the building has deteriorated. The structure was largely built out of wood and some of that wood has started to rot. Over the years the interior space had become dated and ineffective for the present needs of the school.

Phase one of the renovations will restore the

outside of the building, increase accessibility by adding an elevator, and a garden will be added to the southwest of the building. The wooden outside siding will be replaced with a durable modern material that has a lifespan of over 25 years and doesn't need to be painted. The garden court will be added out of the southwest corner of the basement towards the classroom building and first year complex and will make the basement a much more appealing space.

Phase two will renew and repurpose the interior space, modernizing and increasing the functionality of the building. The reallocation of the interior space and design for phase two is done; however, work on phase two cannot begin until phase one is complete.

There is no explicit timeline for the completion of the project. Because the Heather Brae Hall Transitional Facility, the portable building located behind the first year complex, provides adequate office and classroom space to replace the offices and classrooms formerly in the Founders' Hall, having the renovations completed quickly isn't critical.

The university isn't providing a schedule for completion because there are still potential setbacks that may be uncovered during construction. For example, although it was known before the project began that the wood siding had begun to rot, the full extent of the damage isn't clear. As workers pull off the old wood siding, it is

quite likely they will find further rot damage and structural damage that will need to be addressed and push back the completion date.

Although no dates have been given, the blocked pathway between Founders' Hall and the Forum and reduced parking aren't expected to be reopened until late spring 2014 at the earliest.

Funding for the project comes from a separate fund the university has set aside for restorations and similar infrastructure projects. Since the funds have already been set aside, the renovations won't be affected by the upcoming budget cuts.

What's Your Favourite Thing About the Holiday Season?

Hoar frost, fresh snow, and
Dr. Who on the 25th.
-Kelly

No School!
-Spencer

Christmas drinks at
Starbucks. -Sherri

All the baked goods
-Kim

I love everything about Christmas! I love the smells, the music, the lights, the gorgeous ornaments, being with family, fires, and turkey -Jessica

Being inside when
it is cold.
-Corbin

Anticipating the CPAC Megan Alderdice DAG WRITER

The city of Camrose has always considered art to be a community value, and for this reason the city's art programs have maintained a continued support from city council. The majority of the residents in Camrose and its surrounding area share a passion and appreciation for the arts, specifically performing arts. That's why the completion of construction on the Camrose Performing Arts Centre (or CPAC) will mark a momentous occasion for the city.

The CPAC represents a vision of economic growth. The project has brought The Government of Alberta, the City of Camrose, Camrose County, and the University of Alberta together to foster community spirit and kinship. Camrose is considered to be a prime location for such a project as it is located in a more rural area of Alberta, and will underscore the significance of culture in a community's stability and growth.

While the CPAC is located on campus, the use of the centre won't be restricted

for purely academic purposes. It will also be available for use by community groups, such as dance groups or choirs, and visiting performers.

There has been debate on whether or not Camrose actually needs the performing arts centre. Some believe it to be an unnecessary tax burden placed on Camrose city residents, especially since the Bailey Theatre on Main Street was recently renovated. However, the CPAC will offer more options to performers, and its size allows for a larger audience. It will also provide the space and equipment needed for full-stage performances. As of now, the current art facilities in Camrose are not meeting all the needs of the local arts groups, and this project plans to address that problem.

The CPAC will not replace the existing arts facilities in Camrose; rather, it will complement them. Along with the Bailey Theatre, the two facilities will be able to support vibrant arts festivals that council hopes will act as

a tourist attraction. The idea is that people will come to Camrose to attend performances and while they're here, they will shop, dine, and perhaps stay overnight. Although the project is costly, what will come about from its production is expected to boost the local economy and give support to the city's amenities.

The theatre will include 550 seats on two sloped floor levels, a multipurpose space, dressing rooms, and an orchestra pit. The theatre itself is 38,000 ft², and the entire stage area will be 2,700 ft².

The theatre is being funded by the City of Camrose, which will be repaid through a fund-raising campaign that has the ultimate goal of raising \$5 million. A fundraising campaign was started by fundraisers for the project, called "TAKE A SEAT." People are encouraged to donate \$1200 (which can be pledged over time in multiple payments) in order to purchase a fixed plaque on the arm of an individual seat. These plaques will be engraved with the

LED lights for the stage lighting, and the photovoltaic array being installed will be the largest in the province.

So far, the \$18 million CPAC project has received much support and funding, with Augustana itself contributing \$750,000. \$4.5 million in funding came from the municipal sustainability initiative, \$1 million from Camrose County, and \$3.5 million from the Province of Alberta. The University of Alberta's in-kind contribution (parking, landscaping and land value) totals \$4.3 million.

\$4.25 million will be funded by the City of Camrose, which will be repaid through a fund-raising campaign that has the ultimate goal of raising \$5 million.

A fundraising campaign was started by fundraisers for the project, called "TAKE A SEAT." People are encouraged to donate \$1200 (which can be pledged over time in multiple payments) in order to purchase a fixed plaque on the arm of an individual seat. These plaques will be engraved with the

name of whomever the patron wishes, whether it be with the goal of celebrating the memory of a loved one, or the commemoration of a special occasion.

Recently, Cargill, an international producer and marketer of food, agricultural, financial and industrial products and services, pledged \$1 million to the project. Cargill also partnered with Augustana Campus in areas of Wetlands and Watershed Development, Sustainable Rural Communities, and Health and Wellness. In recognition of this, the main theatre inside of the CPAC will be named the "Cargill Theatre."

Cargill's donation is the largest that Augustana has ever received, and it brings the amount of money raised for the project to approximately \$3 million.

The first performance is scheduled for mid-2014, and at that time, people are encouraged to stop by the theatre and explore what it has to offer. The grand opening is scheduled for Saturday, October 4, 2014.



PHOTO: theatrealberta.com

What Grinds Your Gears?

CSL courses.

Early morning classes.

All the work/midterms being scheduled in the same timeframe.

Heavy smokers who infect the library with the smell of cigarettes.

No sidewalk on 46 Ave.

Lack of plug ins in the forum.

Bitcoin: What Are They? Jessica Stambaugh DAG WRITER



There are several ways to get Bitcoins. One must first set up an account, and then there are a few ways to get "funds". One can transfer funds into this account, which Bitcoin calls your "digital wallet", and use it that way. Or, one can "mine" Bitcoins.

The best description of mining found is from the FAQ section of the Bitcoins website: "miners collect the transactions on the network into large bundles called blocks. These blocks are strung together into one continuous, authoritative record called the block chain, which doesn't permit any conflicting transactions. This is necessary because without it people would be able to sign the same Bitcoins over to two different recipients, like writing cheques for more money than you have in your account. The block chain lets you know for sure exactly which transactions count and can be trusted".

The issue with online shopping is the level of security each website uses to protect one's personal information. With the introduction of Paypal the fear of having someone stealing credit card information was lessened. Now, we have Bitcoins.

What on earth are Bitcoins, you ask? Bitcoins are the first decentralized digital currency. By decentralized, Bitcoin means that there is no organization or government behind it. The Bitcoin website states: "the network is made up of users like yourself so no bank or payment processor is required between you and whoever you're trading with".

This mining takes place by running computer programs on specialised hardware that automates the process of securing the network. In theory, as people use Bitcoins, the Bitcoins themselves are distributed through the network and like paper currency, if you are paid for something in Bitcoins, you can turn around and use those Bitcoins to pay for something as well.

The process sounds very complicated, but there are many advantages to using Bitcoins. The website boasts five advantages: little to no fees, secure, account cannot be frozen, no prerequisites required, and they can be used in every country.

Bitcoins, as mentioned earlier, are not backed by any organization, government, or bank. This means that in a transaction, there is no middle man. The transaction takes place straight from person A to person B. This also means that there are little to no fees one must pay to use this service. Bitcoin does charge a small fee for getting a transaction to go through faster.

The fact that Bitcoin works as a "peer-to-peer transaction" means transaction times are quick as well. A transaction from Canada to Africa takes no more than ten minutes. When a user asks to push a transaction through, a miner just has to verify the validity of the transaction and once this is verified the transaction is completed. [Note that the service fees are paid to the miners for hosting the transaction]

The security of Bitcoin boasts to be top notch as well. Bitcoin verifies transactions with the same state-of-the-art encryption that is used in military and government applications. This advanced military grade cryptography means that no one can charge you money or make a

payment on your behalf as long as you take the required steps to protect your wallet. With this being an electronic currency, there are no credit card numbers for someone to steal.

The fact that one's account cannot be frozen stems from the idea that no one organization, person, bank, or government is backing Bitcoin. The lack of ownership of Bitcoin is one of the latest novelties to the concept. If there is not a corporation, or some organization that is running Bitcoin, then Bitcoin is able to offer things like practically no fees, no freezing of accounts and no obscure prerequisites to get an account.

A couple other advantages involve the ease of using Bitcoins. Mobile payments are easy; just scan the QR code made available through the Bitcoin wallet app or touching phones together via NFC radio technology. Similarly, Bitcoin is universal among all service providers and software making Bitcoin available to anyone, not just to use but to mine. The website offers links to download the necessary software for Windows, Mac, and Linux.

One fascinating aspect of Bitcoin is the idea that this currency only has as much value as those using it are willing to give it. The value of Bitcoin is entirely based on the belief that it has value: there is no

vault with its worth in gold to balance it against". [Bitcoins have experience huge fluctuations, more than \$200 in the past]

The CTV news program W5 did a piece on Bitcoins to try and make the concept accessible and they discuss how an individual can go about getting Bitcoin. They mention the acquisition of Bitcoins through payment of goods and services, mining, and transferring funds into an account. They also discuss the first Bitcoin ATM in Vancouver that allows customers to exchange cash for this digital currency.

CTV also discusses the risks of using Bitcoin. The most immediate one being that because Bitcoin is not backed against a metaphoric vault of gold, it is not subject to the same regulations that typical currencies are. This, along with the anonymity of the transactions, means that if there is a theft, tracking it will be very difficult.

While Bitcoins have been around since 2009, they are quickly gaining popularity in a society where we have stopped perusing aisles, and started perusing page upon page of online websites. With this trend came Bitcoin: a digital currency to fit the digitalization of shopping.

For more information go to bitcointalk.org or weusecoins.com

Check Your Notes This Holiday Shopping Season The Bank of Canada PRESS RELEASE

Your first time handling Canada's latest polymer notes—the new \$5 and \$10—may bring a little holiday cheer despite the hustle and bustle of the busy shopping season. You may take a few seconds to look them over. As you should. But it's important to keep looking at all those paper notes you're already

used to handling.

Counterfeiters see frantic shoppers and busy retail line-ups as opportunity knocking and an ideal time to pass fake notes. Don't let them. It only takes a second, so check your notes—polymer and paper—and make sure they're the real thing.

Similarly, if a cash handler examines your money, don't take offence. Routine note checking may just prevent a counterfeit from ending up in your change. It's a good habit we should all take up.

The new Polymer series is our most secure issue yet. So if

you have doubts about a paper note—from any series—refuse it and ask for a polymer note instead. Have a New \$5 or \$10 Note—Show It Off

If in the coming weeks you get your hands on the new polymer \$5 and \$10 notes, show them off before you rush to spend them! Spread the word and let others know that the full series—from the \$100 down to the \$5 polymer note—is now in circulation.

The security features on the polymer notes are the same on all denominations, which makes them quick and easy to check.

Feel, Look and Flip is a phrase that reminds you how to check key security features on the polymer notes.

Feel the smooth, unique texture of the note. It's made from a single piece of polymer with some transparent areas.

Look for transparency through the large window and the outline of the frosted maple leaf window. Look at the details in the metallic portrait and building in the large window.

Flip the note to see the metallic portrait and building repeated in the same colours and detail on the other side of the large window.



Dating on a Budget Submitted by Kyle Ashmead

When it comes to dating on a budget, nature is your friend. Fancy usually means expensive, but is there anything better than an afternoon walk, on a warm day?

Most towns and cities have parks and natural areas, so instead of going for a fancy meal, or a concert try going for a walk. Walking gives you

plenty of time to get to know each other in a non-distracting environment.

In a restaurant there are lots of distractions, which can be helpful on a first date, but it's hard to really get to know each other.

Another great outside activity is picnicking. A picnic in the park can be a great in-

formal way for two people to get to know each other.

When it comes to dating on a budget, think creatively: [try] walking, hiking, local sports games, [or] inviting someone over for a home cooked meal.

The simple typical dating routines are getting old, they are expensive and going

out for a movie is a lot less refreshing, than say a hike followed by a picnic.

What about the cold frosty winter? Just what is there to do? Ever heard of a crazy carpet and a great big snowy hill?

The opportunities are endless, and with a little imagination a lot can be made

out of a little snow. There are all kinds of snowy and wonderful things to do in the winter.

For those of you who do not know, there is a beautiful park, [that is] only a few minutes walk from the Augustana Campus, and yes it has an area for tobogganing, as well.

Sex Trafficking and Slavery Submitted by Kyle Ashmead

Sex trafficking is the movement of women and children across international borders for the purposes of using them in the sex trade. This is a large and growing business; one which touches every nation on earth. Canada is a source and destination for women and children forced into the sex trade. Canada also functions as a transit nation for traffickers taking women into the United States.

Once a woman has worked as a prostitute, even if she was trafficked, there is a great deal of stigma attached to it. The community where she grew up will reject

her, sometimes even her own parents will reject her, and her chances at marriage will be non-existent.

Rape is a form of extreme mental and physical trauma, resulting in symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Rejection from one's family adds to the extreme stress these women have already been facing. The countries where these women come from are known as source countries. They are usually economically down-trodden, where there is little chance of finding a job or improving one's chances at a better future.

The violence includes, but is not limited to, rape, mental abuse, beatings, and ritualized sexual abuse to "break" the women and girls, who are in constant fear for their lives and the lives of their families. Many victims of PTSD from the extreme violence they have endured. Even once a sex slave is rescued, she will continue to suffer these past events over and over again in her mind. Unable to escape these past events, it is likely she will turn to alcohol or drugs to attempt to numb the pain.

There are certain things expected of both men and women in western civilization. It is generally expected women will perform certain roles, and it is also expected women will perform certain roles in the Middle East and the Far East. These gender specific roles could certainly be partly to blame for the huge problem we face today, which is the global sex trade. So called "bad girls" are typically not welcome in mainstream society, even if that same society created the demand for the sex industry that enslaved them, in the first place.

There are estimated to be 30 million slaves in the world today, but the truth is that slavery functions away from the spotlight so the actual number of slaves is unknown. It could be less, but these chances are this number will be higher. Many of these slaves are involved with the sex trade, and are invisible to all but those who use and abuse them. Many of these slaves are also child soldiers and many are used in forced labour in India, China and Canada.



The Daglightale ad & submission deadlines:

January 6
February 3
February 17

March 3
March 17
March 30

Want to advertise in the Dag? Contact the editors for an affordable, effective way to promote your business or event.

asadag@ualberta.ca 780-679-1542

Happy holidays, Augustana!

Haven't checked the dates of your final exams yet? Find them at: augustana.ualberta.ca/offices/registrar/exam_schedule.html.

Classes resume January 6.

Check our calendar on page 8 for upcoming January events.

In the meantime...

The library study rooms will be open until 3am every night until December 15.

Pet therapy will be visiting the library from 10-11am December 9-13 and 8-9pm on December 9, 10, 12, and 13.

Photo courtesy of the Augustana Library



The Spirit of Christmas Jennifer Ha DAG WRITER

I've received gifts from Santa once. It was in 2002, on the evening of December 22nd. My parents and I had returned home from dining out and under our Christmas tree was a locking diary, to protect all of my eight year-old secrets.

Of course, looking back on it, this gift from Santa is full of loopholes. Why did Santa come three days early? Why did I get my present in the evening instead of the morning? And of course, why was his writing exactly the same (and grammatically incorrect) as my mother's? I can now conclude that the diary, which I abandoned after learning that the lock opens if you jiggle it hard enough and was therefore not a safe place to store my confidential thoughts, was my immigrant parents' attempt at giving me a typical Christmas experience that I'd seen on TV.

Since Korea, where I

was born, is not a foundationally Christian country, Christmas is different there. It's a holiday you often spend with your significant other rather than your family. You still go to school and work. Gifts are optional. This is the Christmas I was first introduced to. The current culture absorbed a lot of Western influences, but my childhood photos with Santa was with a scrawny Asian man in a very unconvincing white beard.

So the huge celebration of family that Christmas is here gets lost on me. My family treats Christmas as a day where we get to sleep in late, but a day where we can't really do anything because everything is closed. Being fairly secular, I also do not connect with the religious aspect of the holiday either. So where does that leave me?

The only aspect of Christmas I'm truly familiar with, unless you count the plot to *Love Actually*, is the

consumerist aspect of it, which is, frankly, massive. In a way, I absolutely adore the holiday shopping season. Everything is red and covered in gold glitter. Things are packaged into baskets and gift sets into steals and deals. The air seems to be infused with peppermint at all times. Starbucks and Tim Hortons put out seasonal cups. Michael Buble's voice follows you wherever you go, as long as it's into a store.

Inside the stores, of course, is a chaos that no number of smooth singing can solve. Every store is messy and crowded, with disgruntled workers and shrieking children and their even-louder mothers. I worked at a mall one holiday season and I came home every night having serious doubts over it being the most wonderful time of year. People were rude, greedy, and overall plain unpleasant, all in the process of trying to

spread holiday cheer. Love seemed to be exemplified through gifts, and a lot of it ended up returned to the store in favour of gift cards.

If I ever muster up enough courage to go shopping during the holiday season, I come home resembling the Grinch. After being pushed and shoved and going to ransacked merchandise, all I want for Christmas is... for it to be all over. I am sick of the melody of carols that has been playing for a month. I want to puncture every inflatable decoration I see. Christmas lights are an eyesore. The trees shed everywhere.

However, as the 25th approaches, I do notice that people are happier. Smiles are bigger and everybody is excited about something, whether it's seeing a loved one or knowing that they're getting somebody exactly what they wanted. There is this invisible force driving everyone to happiness, giving

them the strength to navigate through overcrowded malls and deal with relatives they wouldn't be able to stand in every other context. While I'm not really familiar with this force, I do believe it's called Christmas spirit. I am a witness-- it exists.

From the little I know of the holidays, this spirit is what I admire the most: the happiness that keeps people smiling despite the -40 weather. Every bulb of Christmas lights, every rendition of "Jingle Bell Rock", and even every present purchase leads up to making somebody happy and expressing your joy for life. Whether that joy comes from your faith, your family, or your love for peppermint bark, it's what makes the holiday season the bright time and the right time to appreciate being alive.

JANUARY 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 Basketball vs. NAIT
5	6 Classes Resume Hot Chocolate w. ASA	7 Ice Hunt in Quad	8 Skating, Mirror Lake	9 Mini Golf Tourn. Casino Night	10 Basketball vs. Leth Volleyball vs. SAIT Chaplain's coffee house	11 Basketball vs. STMU Hockey vs. BC Volleyball vs. SAIT
12	13 Dagligtale submission deadline Club Fair 1st year dpt. meeting Int'l student orientation	14 Ice Sculptures,	15 Dashing Through the Snow	16 Volleyball vs. RDC Snow Derby	17 Basketball vs. BC Hockey vs. SAIT Add/Drop Deadline	18 Basketball vs. MHC Volleyball vs. RDC
19	20	21	22 AGT auditions	23 AGT auditions	24 Vikings alumni weekend Basketball vs. GPRC Volleyball vs. GPRC Hockey vs. KC	25 Vikings alumni weekend Basketball vs. GPRC Volleyball vs. GPRC Hockey vs. KC
26	27	28	29 Hockey vs. GML	30	31 Curling ACAC Volleyball vs. BC	

Soup Supper: Tuesdays 5-6 Chapel: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10-10:20

Basketball VS MSUN Jenn Laskosky DAG WRITER

[Editors' note: scores and plays from the games were not available at the time of publication. Check the Vikings' Twitter page, @UofA_AugVikings, for scores and updates.]

On December 6 and 7 the men's and women's basketball teams took on the Montana State Northern University Lights. The last time the Lights came to Augustana was three years ago, and the teams were just as eager to have another chance to take them on.

Montana State is known as one of the better teams in their division, which pushed Augustana athletes to bring up their level of play as well.

"Teams from the States are definitely more physical, much bigger, and their skill level is higher," said Tony Nguyen, one of the captains for the Augustana men's basketball team.

The basketball teams held high expectations for Montana and their main goal going in was to keep them under a triple digit score. The overall mentality of the athletes is that if they could work hard and compete well with Montana, they would consider the game a victory.

Though these games are considered only to be exhibition, the Vikings intend to draw experience and a bit of fun from the experience. The opportunity to play against teams of Montana's calibre doesn't always come along and the Vikings athletes take full advantage of it. Playing against a higher level also brings some great development and experience for the team's rookies.

This past weekend, fans saw some high intensity basketball as the teams use these games to continue to prepare for the rest of their season.

"We have a winning mentality, this is still a step in the process of making it to the ACAC Championships," said Nguyen.

Earlier this season, the men's team also had the opportunity to travel to Idaho and play teams from the States.

Though the scores were rather lopsided the team used it as a learning experience, preparing for the rest of the season. The team also had to play some different rules down there. The Vikings hoped that this time the odds would be in their favor, as Montana had to adjust to the FIBA rules.

The Viking's Basketball season started off with a bang. The women have won nine consecutive games and the men's team has three wins, but suffered some tough losses. However, their rookies have really stepped up to the plate.

The women's team has not played a team of this calibre until now; it will be

interesting to see what they take out from this game. The women's team added two rookies to their roster this year, Talia Dale and Lyndal Tollefson. These two have proven they have what it takes to play at this level.

Our men's team added six new first years to their roster this year. They consist of Talon Fowler, Mike Malin,

Nathan Schakel, Joey Schwartz, Seb Turcotte, and Cam Vilcsak. The rookies have already been credited with some of this year's wins. [Augustana can expect to see more from these first year recruits in the years to come. Coming out of the weekend, both teams will be thinking of how they can improve to make this season even better.

